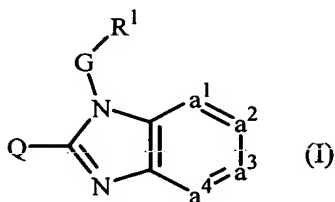


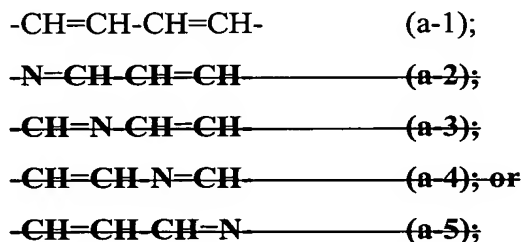
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

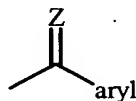
1. (*currently amended*) A compound of formula



a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ represents a bivalent radical of formula

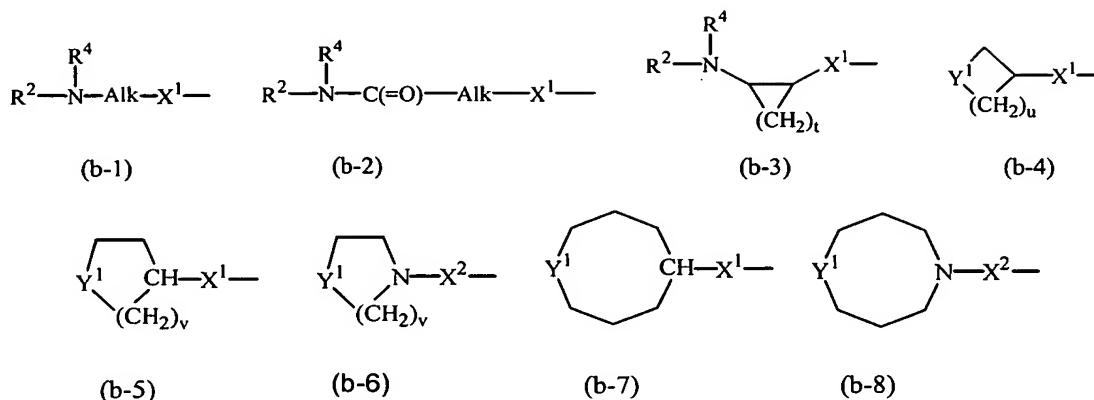


wherein each hydrogen atom in the radical (a-1) ~~radicals (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-4) and (a-5)~~ may optionally be replaced by halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, polyhaloC₁₋₆alkyl, carboxyl, aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₄alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, or a radical of formula



wherein $=Z$ is $=O$, $=CH-C(=O)-NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $=CH_2$, $=CH-C_{1-6}alkyl$, $=N-OH$ or $=N-O-C_{1-6}alkyl$;

Q is a radical of formula



wherein

Alk is C_{1-6} alkanediyl;

Y^1 is a bivalent radical of formula $-NR^2-$ or $-\text{CH}(NR^2R^4)-$;

X^1 is NR^4 , S, $S(=O)$, $S(=O)_2$, O, CH_2 , $C(=O)$, $C(=CH_2)$, $CH(OH)$, $CH(CH_3)$, $CH(OCH_3)$, $CH(SCH_3)$, $CH(NR^{5a}R^{5b})$, CH_2-NR^4 or NR^4-CH_2 ;

X^2 is a direct bond, CH_2 , $C(=O)$, NR^4 , C_{1-4} alkyl- NR^4 , NR^4-C_{1-4} alkyl;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

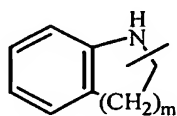
u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

v is 2 or 3; and

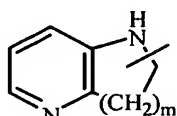
whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced by R^3 ; with the proviso that when R^3 is hydroxy or C_{1-6} alkyloxy, then R^3 can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is a direct bond or C_{1-10} alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, aryl C_{1-6} alkyloxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, aryl C_{1-6} alkylthio, arylcarbonyl, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, C_{1-6} alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, aryl C_{1-6} alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonylamino and aryl;

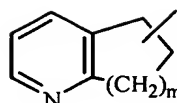
R^1 is a bicyclic heterocycle selected from quinoliny, quinoxaliny, benzofurany, benzothiény, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzthiazolyl, pyridopyridyl, naphthiridinyl, 1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl, 3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-*b*]pyridyl or a radical of formula



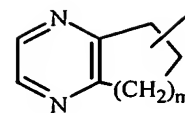
(c-1)



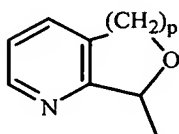
(c-2)



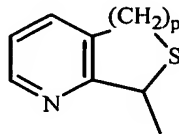
(c-3)



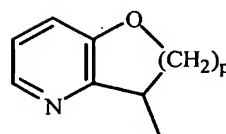
(c-4)



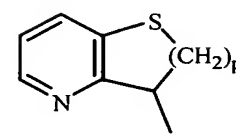
(c-5)



(c-6)



(c-7)



(c-8)

and said bicyclic heterocycles may optionally be substituted in either of the two cycles with 1 or where possible more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, polyhaloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonylamino, C₁₋₆alkyl-SO₂-NR^{5c}-, aryl-SO₂-NR^{5c}-, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-NR^{5c}R^{5d}, HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, halo(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, C₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n- and mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each m independently is 1 or 2;

each p independently is 1 or 2;

each R² independently is hydrogen, formyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl substituted with N(R⁶)₂, or C₁₋₁₀alkyl substituted with N(R⁶)₂ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₂₋₅alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R³ is hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, arylC₁₋₆alkyl or arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy;

R⁴ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl or arylC₁₋₆alkyl;

R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} each independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; or

R^{5a} and R^{5b} , or R^{5c} and R^{5d} taken together form a bivalent radical of formula $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 4 or 5;

R^6 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, formyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl or C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, polyhalo C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkyloxy; and

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q is a radical of formula (b-5) wherein v is 2 and Y^1 is $-NR^2-$.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is C_{1-10} alkyl substituted with NHR^6 .

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein G is a direct bond or C_{1-10} alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, aryl C_{1-6} alkyloxy, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, C_{1-6} alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, aryl C_{1-6} alkyloxy $(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is
(\pm)- N -[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[1-(8-quinolinyl)ethyl]-
1H-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;
(\pm)- N -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-bromo-5,6,7,8-
tetrahydro-8-quinolinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;
(\pm)- N -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-
quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
(\pm)- N -[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-
tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(ethoxy-8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalanyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-7-methyl-3-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine tetrahydrochloride trihydrate;~~

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-7-methyl-3-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine tetrahydrochloride monohydrate;~~

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;~~

N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

N-[1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]-1,3-propanediamine trihydrochloride monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;~~

(±)-*N*-[1-[1-(aminomethyl)-2-methylpropyl]-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-(2-quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;~~

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(1-isoquinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalanyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-(quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine;~~

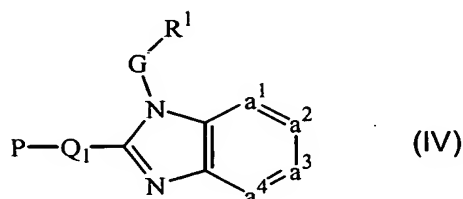
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2,3-dimethyl-5-quinoxaliny)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;
~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-2-amine trihydrochloride tetrahydrate;~~
~~(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine;~~
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[(1-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxaliny)-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

7. (currently amended) A method of ~~using as a medicine~~ treating a respiratory syncytial viral infection, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6 .

8. *(previously presented)* A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.

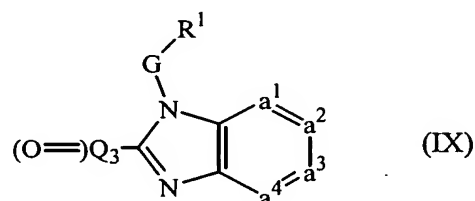
9. *(previously presented)* A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 8, comprising the step of intimately mixing said carrier with said compound.

10. *(original)* An intermediate of formula



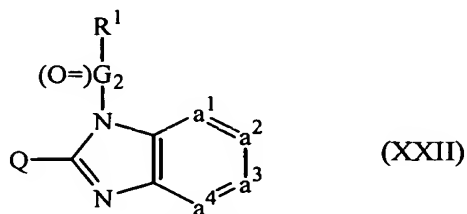
with R^1 , G and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, P being a protective group, and Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 but being devoided of the R^2 or R^6 substituent.

11. *(original)* An intermediate of formula



with R^1 , G and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(O=)Q_3$ being a carbonyl derivative of Q, said Q being defined according to claim 1, provided that it is devoided of the NR^2R^4 or NR^2 substituent.

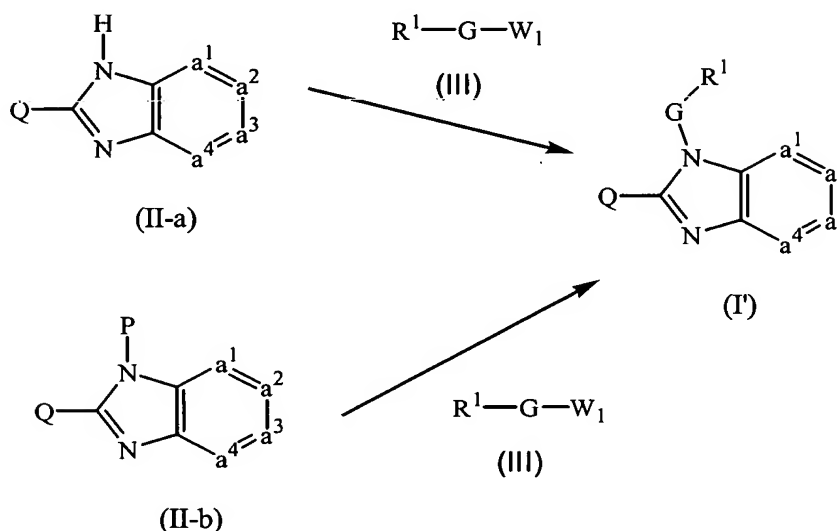
12. *(original)* An intermediate of formula



with R^1 , Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(O=)G_2$ being a carbonyl derivative of G, said G being defined according to claim 1.

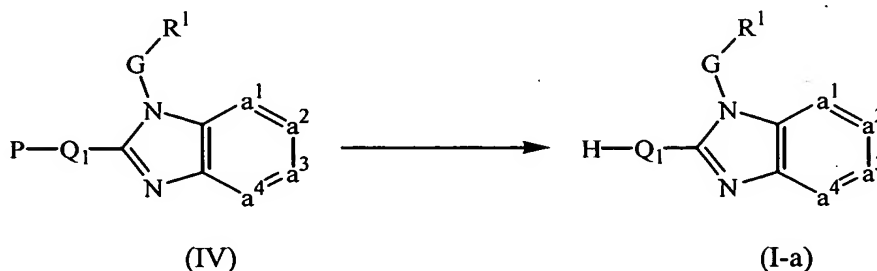
13. *(previously presented)* A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)



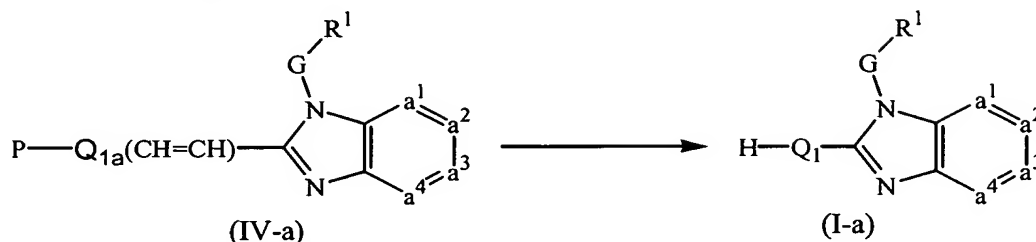
with R^1 , G, Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and W_1 being a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable base and in a suitable reaction-inert solvent;

b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)



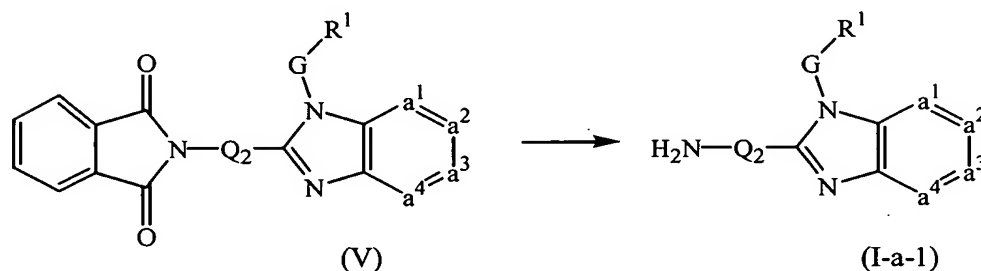
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, $H-Q_1$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

- c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)



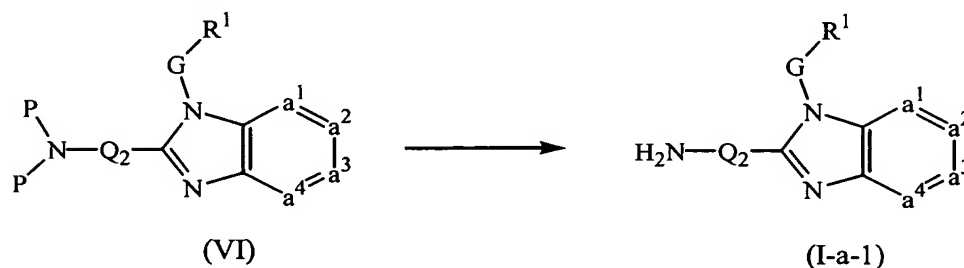
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² or at least one R⁶ substituent is hydrogen, Q_{1a}(CH=CH) being defined as Q₁ provided that Q₁ comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

- d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



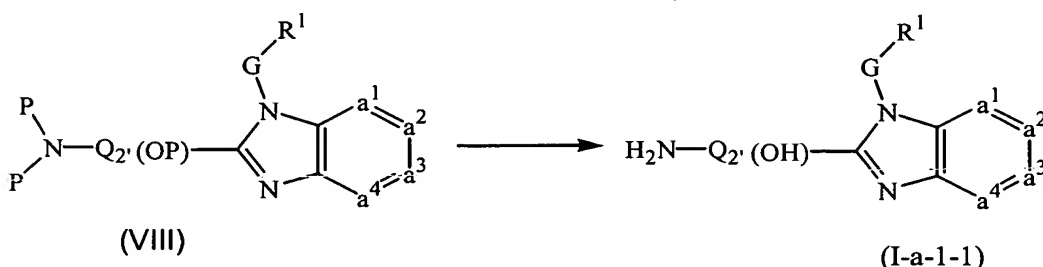
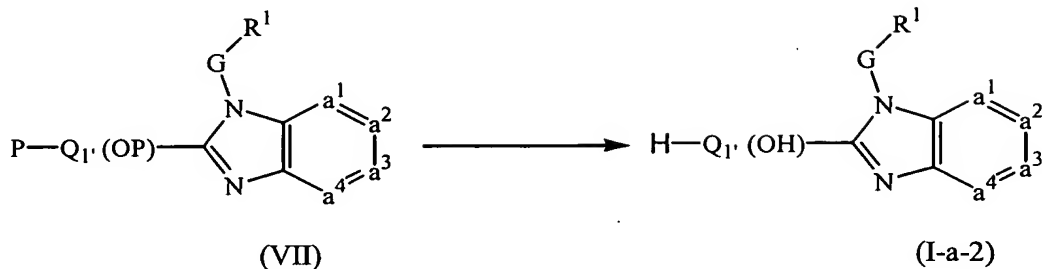
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-Q₂ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R⁶ substituents are hydrogen or R² and R⁴ are both hydrogen;

- e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



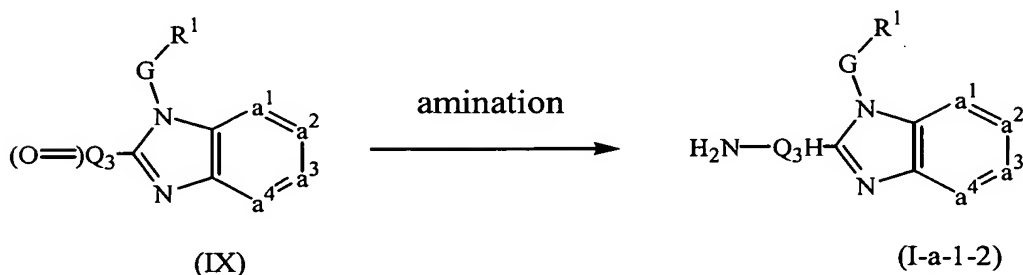
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-Q₂ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R⁶ substituents are hydrogen or R² and R⁴ are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

- f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)



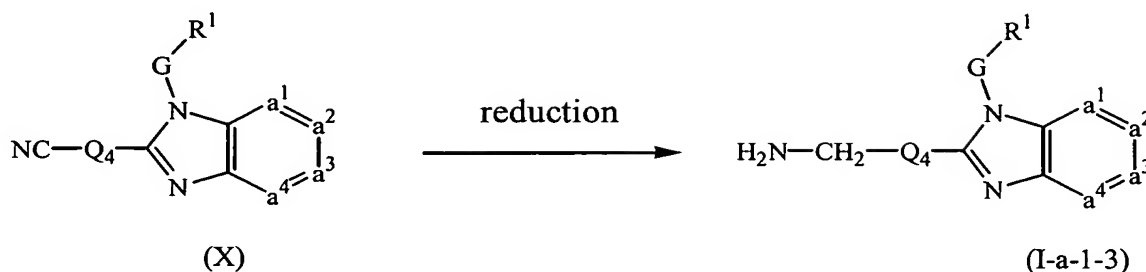
with R^1 , G , and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, $H-Q_1'(OH)$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, $H_2N-Q_2'(OH)$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, and P being a protective group;

g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)



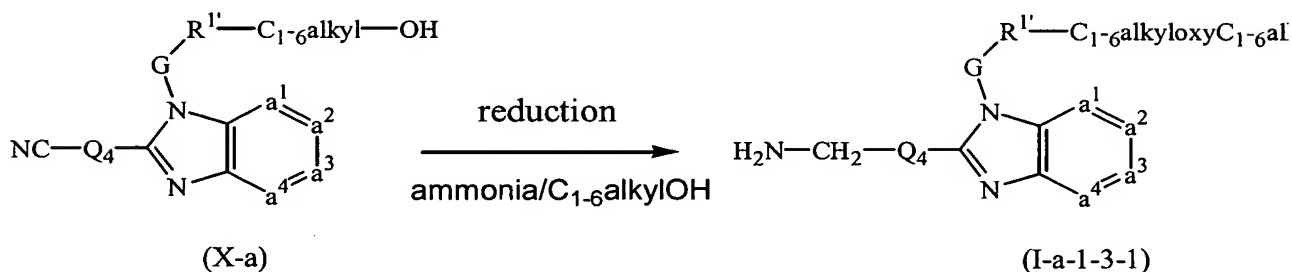
with R^1 , G , and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H_2N-Q_3H being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the R^6 , or R^2 and R^4 substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)



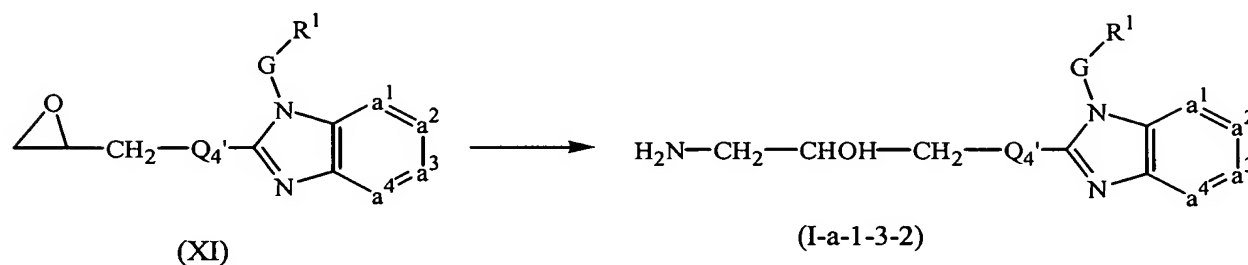
with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-CH₂-Q₄ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a -CH₂-NH₂ moiety, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

- i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)



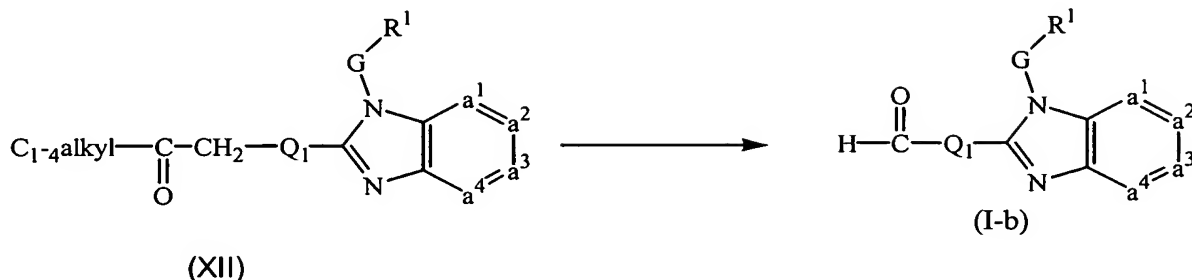
with G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, H₂N-CH₂-Q₄ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a -CH₂-NH₂ moiety, and R¹ being defined as R¹ according to claim 1 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent and suitable solvent;

- j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)



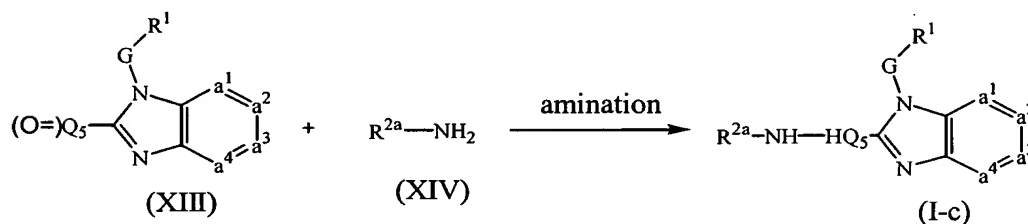
with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-Q₄' being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-NH₂ moiety, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

- k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



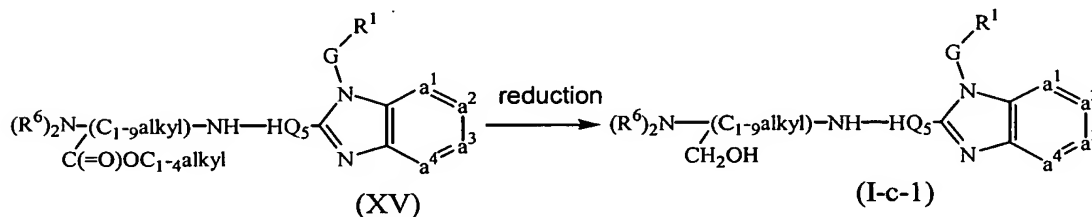
with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H-C(=O)-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² or at least one R⁶ substituent is formyl;

- l) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIII) by reaction with an intermediate of formula (XIV)



with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and R^{2a}-NH-HQ₅ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² is other than hydrogen and is represented by R^{2a}, R⁴ is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R² and R⁴ substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

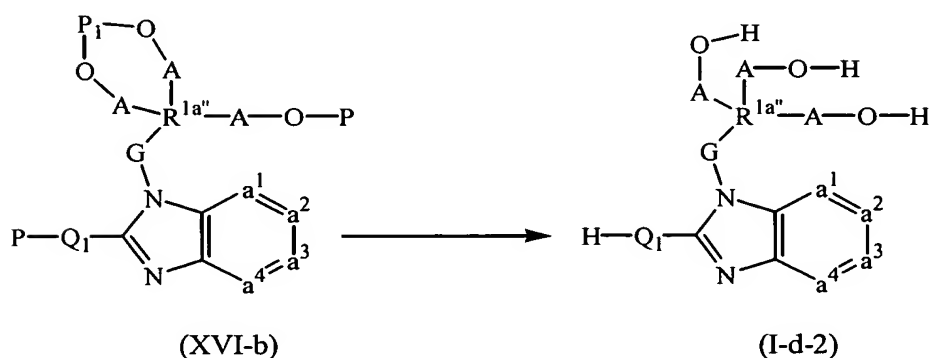
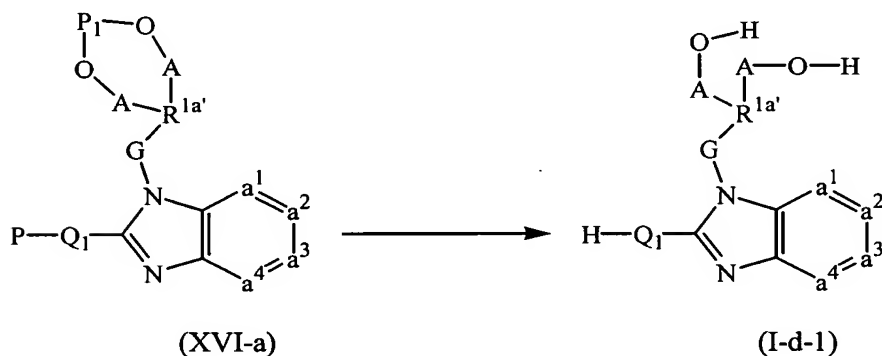
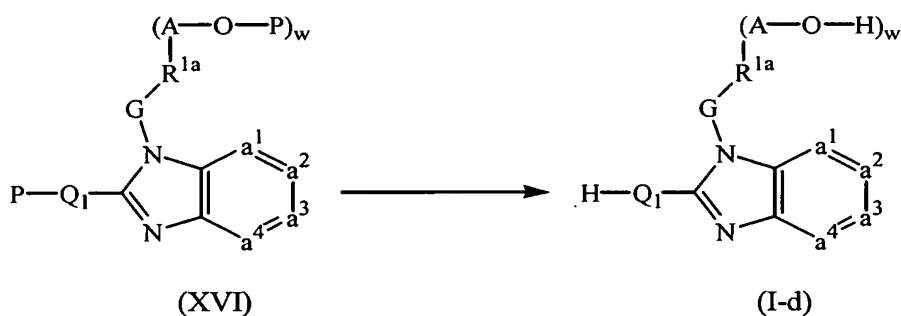
- m) reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)



with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and (R⁶)₂N-[(C₁₋₉alkyl)CH₂OH]-NH-HQ₅ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² is other than hydrogen and is represented by C₁₋₁₀alkyl substituted with N(R₆)₂ and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that R⁴ is hydrogen,

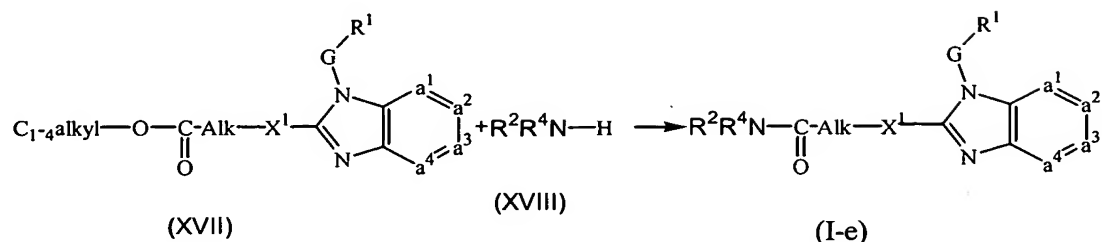
and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R^2 and R^4 substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a suitable reducing agent;

- n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)



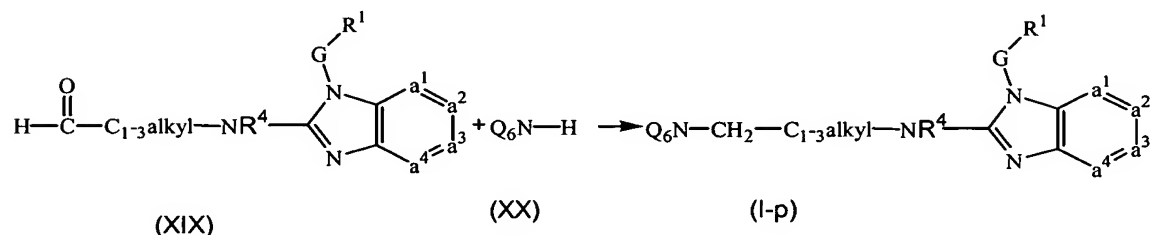
with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and $R^{1a}-(A-O-H)_w$, $R^{1a'}-(A-O-H)_2$ and $R^{1a''}-(A-O-H)_3$ being defined as R^1 according to claim 1 provided that R^1 is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, or HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or P₁ being a suitable protecting group, with a suitable acid.

- o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



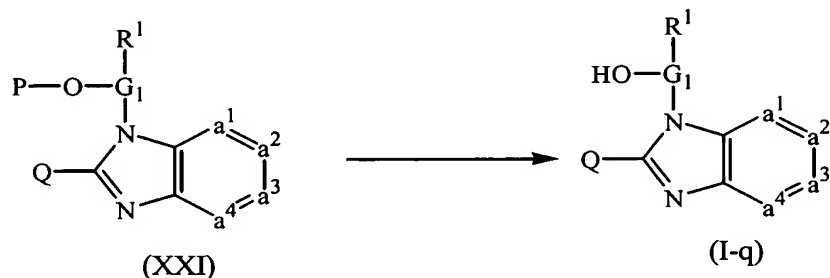
with R^1 , G, $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$, Alk, X^1 , R^2 and R^4 defined as in claim 1, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

- p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)



with R^1 , G, and $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $\text{Q}_6\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_{1-3}\text{alkyl}-\text{NR}^4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that in the definition of Q, X^2 is $\text{C}_{2-4}\text{alkyl}-\text{NR}^4$, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

- q) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XXI)



with R^1 , Q, and $-\text{a}^1=\text{a}^2-\text{a}^3=\text{a}^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $\text{HO}-\text{G}_1$ being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy or $\text{HO}-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n$; and

- r) reducing an intermediate of formula (XXII)



with R^1 , Q, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-G₂-OH being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy substituent carries also at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent.

14. *(cancelled)*

15. *(cancelled)*

16. *(previously added)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid.

17. *(previously added)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with alkali.

18. *(previously added)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the acid addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free base by treatment with alkali.

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19. *(previously added)* The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the base addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free acid by treatment with acid.